

MICHIGAN SENATE

MID YEAR UPDATE

FROM SENATOR ALAN SANBORN

ASSISTANT PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

Representing the 11th District consisting of the Townships of Armada, Bruce, Chesterfield, Harrison, Lenox, Macomb, Ray, Richmond, Shelby and Washington; and Armada, Memphis, Mount Clemens, New Baltimore, New Haven, Richmond and Romeo.



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PROTECTING OUR ENVIRONMENT

With the hardwork and cooperation of his fellow members of the Macomb County legislative delegation, Senator Sanborn was able to successfully amend the FY '03-'04 DEQ budget to add \$1,700,000 for the water quality monitoring in Lake St. Clair and the Clinton River Watershed, and to dredge PCB contaminated canals in St. Clair Shores. Though the Governor vetoed more than half of the appropriation, \$700,000 made it through for PCB clean-up.

WORKING FOR MICHIGAN FAMILIES

Creating secure communities begins with establishing a safe home environment. The Michigan Legislature worked to ensure that the interests and security of Michigan families continue to be protected.

- Senate Bill 395, which would establish a definition of legal birth, personhood and rights was passed. The bill defines legal birth at the point at which any part of the live child has been delivered outside their mother's body.
- Anti-spam legislation was passed in the Senate to limit the amount of unwanted bulk e-mail. If enacted, Senate Bill 357 would allow consumers to place their name on a "Do Not E-Mail" list to keep marketers from sending them electronic solicitations.
- A consumer protection measure to bar unapproved charges on telephone bills passed the Senate. Senate Bill 1 prohibits telephone companies from assessing the end-user customer line charge (EUCL) to Michigan consumers, unless approved by the Public Service Commission.
- State government agencies were prohibited from using fee (1-900) telephone numbers to charge callers who want access to public information under Senate legislation.
- The Police Impersonation Bill was passed and signed into law. This legislation stiffens the punishment for individuals impersonating a police officer in order to commit another crime.

REPORT CARD
(Since Taking Office)

| Senate Votes Held: | Sanborn Votes Cast: |
|-----------------------|------------------------|
| 1,689 | 1,689 |

Record: 100%

ENSURING FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY

The Michigan Legislature developed a plan of fiscal restraint which balanced the budget without raising taxes. The way the economy grows is by allowing Michigan families and job providers to keep more of what they earn. There were plenty of challenges. But we saw plenty of opportunities, too, and took innovative steps to solve the problems.

- Seventeen (already planned) new road projects in high growth areas of Michigan were restored. These infrastructure improvements will have a significant impact on safety, traffic congestion, and future economic development.
- Michigan's perfect AAA bond rating was preserved. The budget puts \$73 million into the Budget Stabilization Fund, \$73 million into the new School Rainy Day Fund, and \$47 million into the Medicaid Trust Fund.
- The "Claim it Correctly" program, which collects lost revenue from unlawful, homestead property tax exemptions, was instituted.
- The "Driver Responsibility Program" was established. This new program levies added fees on drivers who accrue seven or more points on their driver's license, or are guilty of a serious driving violation such as DUI. Along with generating increased revenue, this program will help protect Michigan citizens on the road.
- The Joint Committee on Business Competitiveness was formed. The committee, which Senator Sanborn chairs, heard public testimony and will make recommendations to the Legislature on ways Michigan can remain economically competitive in the 21st Century.

SAFEGUARDING HEALTH CARE NEEDS

The Michigan Legislature acted to safeguard vital state services that improve the lives of our most vulnerable citizens. The neediest in our society will know their health care concerns can be met.

- \$168 million was captured in new federal Medicaid dollars to help fund Medicaid caseloads.
- Funding for Medicaid Caretaker Relatives with a limited hospital benefit was restored.
- Legislation to create a more competitive environment for small group health insurance was passed and signed into law. Senate Bills 234 and 460 will help slow the escalating cost of health care and help increase the number of people who have access to health insurance.



IMPROVING PUBLIC EDUCATION FOR MICHIGAN'S CHILDREN

The Michigan Legislature continued our commitment to families in Michigan by making public education the top priority in the budget. The best investment we can make as a state is the excellent education of our children.

- The \$2,500 Merit Award Scholarship Program was preserved. Michigan's high school students can count on their hard work being rewarded. More than 140,000 students have received the award, and the budget guarantees the program will continue in its present form.
- Per-pupil funding for K-12 students was maintained at the \$6,700 level.
- A statewide pilot program providing sixth graders with laptop computers was expanded. This program will provide new, cutting edge educational opportunities for Michigan students.
- At-Risk, School Readiness, and Small Class Size grants were preserved. These preschool through twelfth grade programs help provide a quality education for those most in need.



Senator Alan Sanborn joins Merit Award recipient Garrett Sydloski and his father Dan Sydloski, in affixing a "Proud Parent of a Merit Scholar" bumper sticker.

- The Senate passed legislation to provide local school districts with flexibility options which would enable schools to better serve their students' educational needs. This action would also help schools reduce administrative costs.
- Strong support for higher education was ensured by establishing a funding floor for all Michigan public universities.

SURVEY QUESTIONS. . .

Please take a minute to answer the following questions and return your responses to: Senator Alan Sanborn • P.O. Box 30036 • Lansing, MI 48909

- 1 Should Michigan voters be given the opportunity to vote on a constitutional amendment that would limit marriage to the wedding of a man and a woman? ☐ Yes ☐ No
- 2 Under current Michigan law, the Secretary of State is required to issue a driver license or state I.D. card to an applicant, even if it is suspected that he or she is unlawfully in this country. Do you support Senator Sanborn's anti-terrorist legislation to prohibit the issuance of a driver license or I.D. to anyone who is not known to be in the U.S. legally? ☐ Yes ☐ No
- 3 With the advances in digital, wireless and micro technology over the past several years, cameras have become easy to conceal, inexpensive and widely available. Do you support updating Michigan's laws to make it a crime for someone to electronically "peep" in disrobing areas, where you and your family have a reasonable expectation of privacy (examples: your home, school locker rooms, restroom stalls, etc.)? ☐ Yes ☐ No

☐ Yes, I would like to receive future newsletters via e-mail. My e-address is list below

Comments: _____

Name _____ Email Address _____

Address _____

City _____ Zip _____ Phone () _____

..... Detach and return to Senator Sanborn's office

SURVEY RESULTS. . .

Below are the results of the survey questions posed in the last newsletter. "Thank you" to the many hundreds of people who took the time to participate.

- 97% of respondents agree that impersonating a police office in order to commit a crime deserves to be treated as a felony under Michigan law. (Senator Sanborn took you at your word on this issue and was successful in getting Senate Bill 118 signed into law).
- 98% of those responding support Senator Sanborn's position that individual states should have the authority to regulate and restrict waste being brought in from out of state.
- 87% of responding readers support, as does Sanborn, the creation of a multi-county oversight board to review proposed rates and large contracts relating to the Detroit water and sewage systems, upon which many are dependent for essential services.
- 60% of those responding agreed with Senator Sanborn's position regarding the need to preserve the Michigan's Merit Award scholarship for qualifying high school seniors.



State Senator
ALAN SANBORN

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11th District • Macomb County

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DID YOU KNOW?

Consumers can sign up for the National Do-Not-Call list by telephone or through the internet. Visit www.donotcall.gov or call toll-free 1-888-382-1222 from the phone you wish to register.

Information about homeowners and automobile insurance is available at: www.michigan.gov/ofs. Consumers can also access interactive buyer's guides at this site.

Michigan citizens can get record-ed, up-to-date information about West Nile Virus in Michigan by calling toll-free 1-888-668-0869.

Gasoline consumers can find the average price of gas in a city or zip code, as well as a listing of gas stations in that area at: www.michigan.gov/gasprices.

Natural gas prices are expected to increase substantially this winter. Consumers can find gas conservation tips and information on home heating help at: www.michigan.gov/mpsc.

Cable Show Information

Tune into Sen. Sanborn's Cable Show, Macomb Today! Macomb Today airs at various times on local cable stations, channel 6 in most areas. Keep an eye in your local listings for show times or visit www.senate.michigan.gov/gop/senator/sanborn

----- Clip & Mail -----

PUBLICATIONS AVAILABLE:

As a service, my office maintains a collection of useful publications that may be of interest to you. Requests will be mailed to you by filling out the following form:

- ☐ Citizen's Guide to State Government
☐ Consumer Protection Resource Guide

- ☐ Services for Seniors
☐ State of Michigan Road Map



Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ Zip: _____

E-Mail: _____

Mail to: Senator Alan Sanborn, P.O. Box 30036, Lansing, MI 48909-7536